TRQ-12823 SN: 10/608,251

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 10-12, 16 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Eidson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,255,960). These claims have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Claims 3-9, 13-15 and 17-19 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended Claims 3, 7, 13, 15 and 17-19 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, thereby rendering these claims allowable.

CONCLUSION

Claims 3-9, 13-15 and 17-19 are pending in the present application. Issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is invited to call the undersigned at (925) 895-3545.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

E. Eric Hoffman Reg. No. 38,186

Bever, Hoffman & Harms, LLP

Telephone: (925) 895-3545 Facsimile: (925) 371-8187

Customer No. 22888

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,

Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.